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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,540	10/29/2003	Chet R. Douglas	42P17156	7574

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EXAMINER	
HASSAN, AURANGZEB	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2182	

DATE MAILED: 04/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,540	DOUGLAS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Aurangzeb Hassan	2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 January 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-29* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-29* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *29 October 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly state a structure as required in an apparatus claim. Claim 9 cites a step in which a retrieval of a second vendor ID from a table is performed. It is unclear which structure is utilized for performing this step.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21 – 23, 25 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. (US Patent Number 6,895,453 hereinafter "Allen") in view of Ito et al. (US Patent Number 6,684,209 hereinafter Ito) in further in view of Levitt (US Patent Number 5,787,012).

5. As per claims 1, 9, 17, 25, Allen teaches a method, apparatus, article and system comprising:

retrieving a first vendor identifier (ID) (element 275, figure 2) from a table (vendor identifier stored as table, column 11, lines 5 – 9) ;

retrieving a second vendor ID (elements 280, figure 2) from the table (vendor identifier stored as table, column 11, lines 5 – 9); and

Allen fails to teach a method, apparatus, article and system comprising:

generating a virtual ID by randomizing the first vendor ID and the second vendor ID.

Ito teaches in an analogous method, apparatus, article and system comprising: generating a virtual ID in any way of number in accordance with the user's convenience (column 2, lines 16 – 23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the method, apparatus, article and system of Allen with the above teachings of Ito. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order to form techniques for performing security functions in computer storage subsystems in order to prevent illegal access by the host computers (see abstract).

The combination of Allen and Ito fails to teach generating a virtual ID by randomizing the first vendor ID and the second vendor ID.

Levitt teaches in an analogous method, apparatus, article and system comprising generating a virtual ID by randomizing the first vendor ID and the second vendor ID. (column 5, lines 42 – 67, column 6, lines 1 – 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the method, apparatus, article and system of the combination of Allen and Ito with the above teachings of Levitt. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order to enhance identification signal writing circuitry in a distributed environment (column 1, lines 6 – 11)

6. As per claim 6, 22, Allen teaches a method, apparatus and article comprising:

extracting the first vendor ID from a world wide name (element 225 of figure 2) identifying a first device (column 8, lines 31 – 35); and

extracting the second vendor ID from a world wide name (element 255 of figure 2) identifying a second device (column 5, lines 55 – 58).

7. As per claim 7, 23, Allen teaches a method, apparatus and article wherein: the first device and the second device comprise physical devices (elements 275 and 280 of figure 2, column 9 lines 1 – 2).

8. As per claim 14, Allen teaches an apparatus wherein the circuitry is also capable of extracting the first vendor ID from a world wide name (element 225 of figure 2) identifying a first device (column 8, lines 31 – 35); and extracting the second vendor ID

from a world wide name (element 255 of figure 2) identifying a second device (column 5, lines 55 – 58).

9. As per claim 15, Allen teaches an apparatus wherein the first device and the second device comprise physical devices (elements 275 and 280 of figure 2, column 9 lines 1 – 2).

10. As per claim 26, Allen teaches a system wherein the circuit board also comprises a processor coupled to a bus; and the circuit card slot is also coupled to the bus (column 8 lines 29 – 31).

11. As per claim 27, Allen teaches a system wherein the first vendor ID corresponds to a first redundant array of inexpensive disk (RAID) and the second vendor ID corresponds to a second RAID (column 4 lines 55 – 65).

12. As per claim 28, Allen teaches a system wherein the circuit card is coupled (Fibre Channel interconnect) to the first RAID and the second RAID (application calling for many RAID devices column 4 lines 43 – 60).

13. As per claim 29, Allen teaches a system wherein the circuit card is coupled (Fibre Channel interconnect) to the first RAID and the second RAID (application calling for many RAID devices, column 4 lines 43 – 60).

14. As per claims 2, 10, 18, Allen teaches a method, apparatus and article comprising: retrieving a first vendor identifier (ID) (element 275, figure 2) from a table (vendor identifier stored as table, column 11, lines 5 – 9); retrieving a second vendor ID (elements 280, figure 2) from the table (vendor identifier stored as table, column 11, lines 5 – 9).

Levitt teaches in an analogous method, apparatus and article wherein the process of generating the virtual ID comprises: rotating the first vendor ID and the second vendor ID by a predetermined amount to form a rotated ID (column 5 lines 42 – 67, column 6 lines 1 – 5); and performing a logical exclusive-or of the other rotated ID with a predetermined number (elements 60a, 60b, and 60c of figure 6, column 4 lines 50 – 65).

It would be obvious to further modify the combination Allen and Ito with the above teachings of Levitt with the same reasons as mentioned in reference to claim 1 above.

15. As per claim 5, 13, 21, Allen teaches a method, apparatus and article comprising:

retrieving a third vendor ID (element 285, figure 2) from the table (vendor identifier stored as table, column 11, lines 5 – 9);

Ito teaches in an analogous method, apparatus, article and system comprising: generating a virtual ID in any way of number in accordance with the user's convenience (column 2, lines 16 – 23).

Levitt teaches in an analogous method, apparatus and article rotating the third vendor ID by a predetermined amount to form a second rotated ID; performing a logical exclusive-or of the second rotated ID with the virtual ID (elements 60a, 60b, and 60c of figure 6, column 4 lines 50 – 65).

It would be obvious to further modify the combination Allen and Ito with the above teachings of Levitt with the same reasons as mentioned in reference to claim 1 above.

16. Claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 16, 19, 20, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen in view of Ito in view of Levitt in further view of Hilton (US Publication Number 2004/0078401).

The combination of Allen, Ito, and Levitt fails to teach retrieving a value from a counter and performing rotating on the counter value.

Hilton teaches a method, apparatus and article comprising:

retrieving a value from a counter (counter-rotating generators, paragraph [0031]);

rotating the counter value to form a rotated counter value(column 5 lines 42 – 67, column 6 lines 1 – 5); and

performing a logical exclusive-or of the rotated counter value with the virtual ID(elements 60a, 60b, and 60c of figure 6, column 4 lines 50 – 65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the method, apparatus, article and system of the combination of Allen, Ito and Levitt with the above teachings of Hilton. One of ordinary

skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order to provide a stochastic rather than a deterministic approach (paragraph [0021])

17. As per claim 4, 12, 20, Allen teaches a method, apparatus and article wherein the counter value is based upon activation time (serial number, column 11, lines 27 – 30 and 50 – 56).

It would be obvious to further modify the combination Allen, Ito and Levitt with the above teachings of Hilton with the same reasons as mentioned in reference to claim 3 above.

18. As per claim 8, 16, 24, Hilton teaches a method, apparatus and article wherein the counter is incremented using a time routine (counter, paragraph [0031]).

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

20. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aurangzeb Hassan whose telephone number is (571)272-8625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on (571)272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KIM HUYNH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
4/6/06